



# St. Vincent de Paul Society

St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County, Inc. [www.stvinnies.org](http://www.stvinnies.org)  
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November 1, 2004

Tony Dzwonar, Director Internal Affairs  
Indiana Office of Utility Counselor  
100 North Senate Ave., Room N501  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2215

Dear Mr. Dzwonar;

This letter is in support of the proposed changes to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Codes that are currently being reviewed by the IURC. These changes will impact countless families across the northern part of Indiana by providing a more fair set of regulations, and lowering deposits. It is immoral for people to face choosing to do without food or medicine so they can stay warm. As residents of St. Joseph County, we would rather spend our community's resources on moving families to self-sufficiency than paying these unreasonable deposits to the utility companies.

We thank the Commissioners for the work they are doing to bring about changes in the 30 year-old utility code and feel the proposed regulations overall are much improved. The following though, are our areas of concern.

We support the following changes in the proposed rules:

- Change the current language, allowing up to 4 months of the yearly bill as a deposit amount, to only one month of the yearly bill.
- Eliminate the credit scoring language and promote the process of using client's credit history with the utility in paying their utility bills.
- Eliminate the deposit language that allows utility companies the ability to charge a deposit after disconnect notices are received in either two consecutive months, or if three total are received in 11 months.
- Amend the language to allow community assistance agencies to be refunded the deposit dollars they paid without the agencies also taking responsibility for future bills.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice our support and concerns.

Sincerely,

Sean Wendlinder  
Executive Director